

COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1965

Reference Nos 206/D/359 to 370 inclusive

In the Matter of Manor Common Blisland, North Cornwall District, Cornwall

DECISION

These disputes relate to the registrations at Entry Nos 1, 7, 8, 9, 20,21, 23, 24, 26, 29, 31, 32, 33, 42, 43, 49, 62 (formerly No. 2), 63 (formerly No. 4), 65 (formerly No. 17), 66 (formerly No. 18), 74 (formerly No. 40), 75 (formerly No. 45), 76 (formerly No. 47), and 77 (formerly No. 50) in the Rights Section, and at Entry Nos 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the Ownership Section of Register Unit No. CL183 in the Register of Common Land maintained by the Cornwall County Council, and are occasioned as regards the Rights Section registrations by Objections No. X473 and Nos X1387, X1388 and X1389 made by Blisland Commoners Association and noted in the Register on 13 November 1970 and 29 December 1972; and as regards the Ownership Section registrations by these registrations being in conflict.

I held a hearing for the purpose of inquiring into the disputes at Bodmin on 3 December 1980. At the hearing (1) Blisland Commoners Association were represented by Mr. V Leese Solicitor of Stephens & Scown, Solicitors of St Austell; (2) Mr Cedric Charles Cawrse, Mrs Daphne Elaine Runnals and Mrs Dorothy Mindy Church as executors of Mr Charles Cawrse who was the applicant for the Rights Section registrations at Entry Nos 24, 29 and 37, were represented by Mr C A Key solicitor of Harvey & Sproull, Solicitors of Bodmin; (3) Mr William Alfred Church on whose application Rights Section registrations at Entry No. 49 and Ownership Section registration at Entry No. 2 were made, was also represented by Mr Key; (4) Mr Charles James Rush on whose application Rights Section registration at Entry No. 25 and 57 (formerly No. 28) and the Ownership Section registration at Entry No. 4 were made, was also represented by Mr V Leese; (5) Mr Ernest Denzil Roose on whose application the Rights Section registration at Entry No. 31 was made, attended in person; (6) Mr A C Fairman as successor of Mr William Charles Greenaway on whose application the Rights Section registration at Entry No. 8 was made and assuccessor through Mrs M K W Williams of Mrs M E Rayner on whose application the Rights Section registration at Entry No. 32 was made, attended in person and as representing his wife Mrs E M Fairman, and also as representing Mr Delamare the present owner of Black Penquite in succession to Mr William Charles Greenaway on whose application the Rights Section registration at Entry No. 7 was made; (7) English Clays Loverings Pochin and Company Limited ("ECLF") on whose application the Ownership Section registration at Entry No. 3 was made, were represented by Mr I Lamond, solicitor of Stephens & Scown, Solicitors of St Austell.

The land ("the Unit Land") in this Register Unit is a tract of about 360 acres. The Rights Section registrations are summarised in the first and second columns of the Schedule hereto. The Ownership Section registration at Entry Mo. 1 made on the application of "Trustees of the Molesworth St Aubyn Settled Estate" is of part only of the Unit Land as shown by over traces of the relevant Register maps, such part being (as I read the copy over trace which I



have) about 6/7th of the whole and being approximately but not exactly the part of the Unit Land of which ECLP are not as below mentioned the registered owners. The Ownership Section registration at Entry No. 2 (Mr Church) is of the whole of the Unit Land. Registration at Entry No. 3 (ECLP) is of the part of the Unit Land west of the red line A-B-C and north of the red line C-D, being an approximately rectangular area of about 50 acres, situate along and within the middle of the west boundary of the Unit Land and in part adjoining the land in Register Unit No. CL143 known as Newton Downs. The Ownership Section registration Entry No. 4 (Mr Rush) is of land nearly but not exactly the same as the rectangular area of which ECLP are the registered owners.

At the hearing, I dealt with the conflicting Ownership Section registrations first. Hr Leese said that Mr Rush now made no claim to own any part of the Unit Land.

In support of the registration of ECLP, oral evidence was given by Mr P Millin, Chartered Surveyor who as such is now and has been since 1958 in their full employ. Prior to or during such evidence Mr Lamond produced: (1) a conveyance dated 1 October 1952 by which Messrs S Burnard and B Kelly as personal representatives of Frank Parkyn (he died 13 September 1940) conveyed to ECLP the lands therein described; (2) an examined abstract dated 1952 of the title of such personal representatives commencing with a conveyance dated 12 April 1912 by which the Rt. Rev. R J Bishop of Beverley and others conveyed to Frank Parkyn the lands therein described; (3) a licence dated 27 January 1938 by which Frank Parkyn granted to ECLP all china clay, under and throughout the lands therein described, and liberty to do the things therein specified for 100 years from 1 October 1937 for which ECLP were to pay the rent and royalties therein mentioned and covenanted as therein set out; (3) an agreement and undertaking dated 19 March 1964 between ECLP and the Minister of Transport in connection with the widening of the Launceston-Bodmin road (A30); and (4) a copy of an agreement dated 18 October 1967 between ECLP and Cornwall County Council about the widening of another part of this road (A30).

Mr Church in the course of his oral evidence produced a conveyance dated 14 August 1967 by which Mrs Diana Warwick Morshead conveyed to him first Casacawn Farm with an area of about 20% acres (delineated on an annexed plan), and "Secondly all such title and interest as the Vendor may have and can convey to all that the manor or lordship or reputed manor or lordship of Casacawn". He said (in effect): - When he purchased the Farm he considered that he had bought the lands which constituted the Manorial rights of Casacawn, being rights which could be identified from the stones which are placed around the various Downs. The stones marking the Morshead Estate (from whom he claimed) had on them an "N" with a broad arrow underneath. There are other stones marked with an "H" with a "P" underneath, which denote what is or was Hayward property (the said 1912 conveyance recites the will dated 28 July 1875 and the death on 12 October 1876 of James Hayward); and also stones marked with a "M" with an "X" undermeath, which denote the Manor of Blisland belonging to the Trustees of Molesworth St Aubyns. The stones on the Unit Land are marked "H/P" which mean that it was formerly owned by Hayward. The Morshead stones N/arrow are on Greenbarrow (CL144, about the ownership of which I held a hearing after this) and against Trehudreth Down (CL142), that is between Trehudreth and Greenbarrow and between Trehudreth (CL142) and Newton (CL143), about the ownership of which I held a hearing starting just before and continuing after this); so Trehudreth and Greenbarrow both belonged to Morshead and also both Trehudreth and Newton. The stones on Menacrin (CL145, about the ownership of which I held a hearing after this) have disappeared, it being very marshy; he claimed Menacrin because the deed showed the Morshead family.



Mr Church was questioned by Mr Lamond but was unable to explain the inconsistencies between his claim and the documents produced on behalf of ECLP, and agreed that the only document he could produce as relating to the Unit Land was the 1967 conveyance. However Mr Key on his behalf produced an abstract dated 1957 of the title of Miss D M Morshead which included general words relating to copyholds and enfranchised hereditaments and two other documents referring to a manor or something manorial.

By section 19 of the Commons Registration Act 1965 regulations may be made for treating any registration conflicting with another registration as an objection to the other registration. By regulation 7 of the Commons Commissioners Regulations 1971 it is provided that where there is a conflict between two registrations then for the purpose of sections 5(6), 6 and 7 of the Act ... each shall be treated as an objection to the other ...". Neither the Act nor the Regulations expressly provide that any such deemed Objection shall be regarded as being limited in scope to the extent of the conflict or should be regarded as withdrawn merely because the conflicting registration is at the hearing not supported by any person. Section 6 of the Act requires that a Commons Commissioner "shall enquire" into any matter referred to him and then "either confirm the registration with or without modification or refuse to confirm it", apparently contemplating that (subject to law and the relevant regulations) he shall do as he thinks fit. Regulation 18 of the 1971 Regulations states that procedure at a hearing shall except as otherwise provided in the Regulations be as a Commissioner shall in his discretion determine. In my opinion in considering these deemed objections I must first consider which if any of these conflicting registrations are supported by any evidence of ownership, and I should not merely because the Trustees of the Molesworth St Aubyn Settled Estate did not appear and offer evidence or because Mr Rush has withdrawn, confirm the remaining Ownership Section registrations so far as they do not conflict with each other.

In my opinion the information and documents provided by Mr Church considered either separately or together are not in law any evidence of his ownership. Although the 1967 conveyance by section 62(3) of the Law of Property Act 1925 is deemed to include wastes and commons to the Manor of Cassacam "appertaining or reputed to appertain or at the time ... occupied or enjoyed with the same", I cannot merely from the stones to be seen on or near the Unit Land with Morshead marks conclude that any part of the land was in relation to the Manor of Cassacavm within the above quoted words. The documents produced or referred to show no connection with this Manor or with any part of the Unit Land. I was unable at the hearing through lack of information provided by Mr Church to make any firming as to the situation of any of these stones or as to the direction of the adjoining Morshead lands indicated by the marks on any of them; though I record that if I had thought by examining the stones I could with the other information available to me concluded that some part of the Unit Land near to any of them appertain to the Manor of Cassacaum, I would either have inspected the land or given Mr Church the opportunity of giving more precise evidence about the locality of each stone. Here circumstance that some part of the Unit Land may at one time have belonged to a member of the Morshead family as possibly indicated by the stones, is I think not evidence that it passed



urder the 1967 conveyance. For this reason I reject Mr Church's ownership claim.

As regards the ECLP ownership claim: - The 1952 and 1912 conveyances were as regards part of the lands thereby conveyed for "all such estate" and interest (if any) which the Vendors have and are able to convey" and "such estate: right and interest as the Vendors have therein"; although the land/which these words are applicable include the part of the Unit Land of which ECLP are registered owners, these two conveyances considered by themselves are not evidence of the ownership of the grantees. But additionally I have the 1938 licence by which such part of the Unit Land (with other lands) is expressly dealt with by Mr Parkin for a term of 100 years without any qualification of his right so to deal with it; deals perfectly to share enems; of consults replie gues in endous regarded as an acts of ownership and proof of possession, see the law as stated in Blandy Jenkins v Dunraven 1899 2 Ch 121 and the House of Lords case there cited. Further I have Mr Millin's evidence that in August 1963, ECLP carried out on the land comprised in the 1938 licence including the part of the Unit Land of which they are now registered as owners, a resistivity survey which involved taking a vehicle on the land, making a very shallow hole, putting a charge in it, and exploding the charge so as to create shock waves detectable (with an instrument) on the surface. In my opinion the 1938 licence and the resistivity survey are acts of ownership and possession which can properly be regarded as done pursuant to the 1912 and 1952 conveyances, and, supporting the conclusion that the grantees under them take the full ownership for an estate in fee simple as therein expressed.

The Launceston-Bodmin road is too far away I think from the Unit Land for the 1964 and 1967 documents produced the evidence in support of the claim made; however on the considerations set out above it is not I think necessary for ECLP to rely on such documents. So in the result I have some evidence legally admissible that ECLP are the owners of the part of the Unit Land of which they are registered as owner. I have no good reasons for not accepting this evidence, and accordingly my decision is that the registration made on their application was properly made.

On the considerations set out above I confirm the registration at Ownership Section Entry No. 3 without any modification, and I refuse to confirm the registrations at Ownership Section Entry Nos 1, 2 and 4.

At the hearing after an adjournment, I next considered the disputed Rights Section registrations, About these oral evidence was given by Mr W M Rowe who is now and has been since 1960 the Secretary of Blisland Commoners Association. His oral evidence and other information which I have about the rights summarised in the third column of the schedule hereto. Of this information I mention particularly that on the day before this hearing in the course of proceedings relating to Shallow Water Common, Register Unit No. CL 187 reference 206/D/395-400, Mr E C Cornelius on whose application the registration in Rights Section Entry No. 42 relating to this CL1883 land was made, was represented by Mr M C Culver solicitor of Coningsbys, Solicitors of Bodmin: at this CL 187 hearing Mr Leese who then (as now) represented Blisland Commoners Association and Mr Culver agreed that at the date of registration the number of animals then appropriate to be registered would have been 11 units but they differed as the effect of a subsequent



disposition by Mr Cornelius of part of the land to which such right was at the date of registration attached; however they were agreed that my decision in relation to this Manor Common CL 183 land should as regards this difference be the same as my decision whatever it might be in relation to the Shallow Water CL 187 land. My decision in relation to that land is of even date with this decision and is to the effect that the subsequent disposition is irrelevant; such decision so far as it relates to this difference should be treated as repeated herein. As regards such of the other Rights Section registrations summarised in the Schedule which have not as therein stated become final, I consider that in the absence of any other evidence about them, I ought to act on the evidence and information so summarised.

For the above reasons, I refuse to confirm the registrations at Rights Section Entry Nos 21, 23, 62, 67, 74, 76 and 77; I confirm without any modification the registrations at Rights Section Entry Nos 8, 57, and 59; and I confirm with the modification set out in the fourth column of the Schedule hereto the registrations at Rights Section Entry Nos 1, 7, 9, 20, 24, 25, 26, 29, 31, 32, 33, 42, 43, 49, 60, 63, 65, 66 and 75.

I am required by regulation 30(1) of the Commons Commissioners Regulations 1971 to explain that a person aggrieved by this decision as being erroneous in point of law, may, within 6 weeks from the date on which notice of the decision is sent to him, require me to state a case for the decision of the High Court.

SCHEDULE (Rights Section registrations)

(1) Entry No. . (former No.)

(2) Applicant: land to which right is attached: animals, c = cattle or cows, h = horses, p = ponies, s = sheep: t and/or p = right to cut turf and/or peat

(3) Evidence and other information available: R = evidence of Mr W Rowe

(4) Decision

Mr David Frederick Agar Rees: Cawms: 7c, 7p and 35s

R: He (W M Rowe) is now the owner of Gawns; see next column for agreeable modifica- 7 ponies and tion.

Confirm with modification for "7 head of cattle. 35 sheep" substitute "5 head of cattle or 3 ponies or 25 sheep"

R: correct

No decision requisite

Mrs Mary Rush: Metherin: 6c or 3p or 30s FINAL

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ó	Mrs Mary Eadgyth Joyce Sharp: Tor Farm: 4c or 2p or 20s FDIAL	R: correct	No decision requisite
7	Mr William Charles Greenaway; Black Penquite: 9c or 4p or 45s	R: 7 units would be appropriate; Mr Fairman on behalf of Mr Delamere the present owner of Black Penquite, agrees	Confirm with modification for "9 head of cattle or 4 pones or 45 sheep substitute "7 head of cattle or 4 ponies or 35 sheep"
8	Mr William Charles Greenaway: Best's Penquite: 11c or 5p or 55s	R: correct. Mr Fairman agrees	Confirm without any modification
9	Mrs Rosemary Cecil Janverin Andrews: Tor Farm: 6c or 3p or 30s; t or p	R: should be reduced to 5 units; claim did not allow for rough grazing. Produced paper signed S M Larsen (present owner) agreeing objection X1388	Confirm with the modification for: "6 head of cattle or 3 ponies or 30 sheep" substitute "5 head of cattle or 3 ponies or 25 sheep".
11	Mrs Dorothy May Runnals: North Kerrow and Metherin Tenement: 4c or 12s FINAL	R: correct	No decision requisite
12	Mr George Ernest Swayne Undertise; 3c or 15s FINAL	R: correct	No decision requisite
13	Mr Jack Miller; Newton House: 2c or 1p or 10s FINAL	R: correct	No decision requisite

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20	Mr William Edward Andrews: Turnrose: 9c or 4p or 25s: p and t	R: 8 units is appropriate. Produces paper signed S M Larsen (present owner) agreeing objection X1388	Confirm with modification for "9 head of cattle or 4 ponies or 45 sheep" substitute "8 head of cattle or 4 ponies or 40 sheep"
21	Mr Robert John Lloyd Hoskin; Brake Farm: 15c or 7p or 75s: p or t	R: Mr Old is now the owner; no rights have been exercised. Produced paper signed by G Old requesting entry be cancelled	Confirmation refused
23.	Messrs Frederick Gordon Guy Old, Frederick Guy Old and Charles Edward Old; Higher Penquite; 9c or 4p or 45s	R: no rights because too far away (in St Breward Parish)	Confirmation refused
24	Mr Charles Cawrse: Durfold Farm: 28c or 140s or 14p	Agreed by Mr Church in person on behalf of himself and his co- executors as in next column, and accepted by R.	Confirm with modification that for "28 head of cattle of 140 sheep or 14 ponies" substitute "4 head of cattle or 2 ponies or 20 sheep"
25	Mr Charles James Rush, Newton Farm: 11c or 5p or 55s.	R: should be 10 units. Mr Leese for Mr Rush agreed.	Confirm with modification for "11 head of cattle or 5 ponies or 55 sheep" substitute "10 head of cattle or 5 ponies or 50 sheep"
26	Mrs Mamie Una Greenaway, Mr William Leonard Greenaway and Mr John Henry Greenaway: Trewint: 6c or 3p or 30s	R: should be 4 units	Confirm with modification for "6 head of cattle or 3 ponies or 30 sheep" substitute "4 head of cattle or 2 ponies or 20 sheep"
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27	Mr William Leonard Greenaway: Higher Carwen: 4c or 2p or 20s; t or p FINAL	R: correct	No decision requisite
29	Mr Charles Cawrse: Carwen: 4c or 2p or 20s	Mr Church (as executor of Mr Cawrse) said that this farm is now owned by Mr W L Greenaway. R: 3 units is appropriate because farm includes only 12 acres of "good" land	Confirm with modification for "4 cows or 2 ponies or 20 sheep" "3 head of cattle or 2 ponies or 15 sheep".
31	Mr Ernest Denzil Roose: Carbilly: 47c or 23p or 235s	R: should be 15 units; Mr Roose agrees.	Confirm with modification for "47 cows or 23 ponies or 225 sheep" substitute "15 head of cattle or 8 ponies or 75 sheep"
32	Mrs Minnie Eileen Rayner: South Penquite; 18c or 9p or 90s	R: should be 5 units. Mr Fairman agrees	Confirm with modification for "18 head of cattle or 9 ponies or 90 sheep" substitute "5 head of cattle or 3 ponies or 25 sheep"
33	Messrs Walter Hugh Pearce and Norman Hubert Pearce: Penrose: 16c or 8p or 80s	R: Should be reduced as in next column	Confirm with the modification for "16 head of cattle or 8 ponies or 80 sheep" substitute "14 head of cattle or 7 ponies or 70 sheep"
	Mr Charles Cawrse: Lower Polpry: 6c or 3p or 30s FEGAL	R: Correct	No decision requisite



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42	Mr Eric Ronald Cornelius: Moss Farm: 70c and 65h and 200s	Number agreed in course of hearing on 2 December 1980 re Shallow Water CL 187; as to apportionment see my decision about CL 187	Confirm with modification for "70 cows and 65 horses and 200 sheep" substitute "11 head of cattle or 6 ponies or 55 sheep"
43	Mr Archelaus Clifford Thomas Runnals: Treswigga: 50c and 60s and 2p; t or p; take fish.	R: land now owned by Mr John Cooper; he has agreed 13 units.	Confirm with modification for "50 head of cattle and 60 sheep and 2 ponies" substitute "13 head of cattle or 7 ponies or 65 sheep".
49	Mr Wilfred Alfred Church: Cassacawn: 7c or 7p or 35s: p or t	R: should be 5 units. Mr Church agrees	Confirm with modification that for "7 head of cattle or 7 ponies or 35 sheep" substitute "5 head of cattle or \$ ponies or \$ 25 sheep".
55 (10)	Mrs Mary Rush: Bedrawl: 19c or 9p or 95s; t or p FINAL	R: correct	No decision requisite
56 (14)	Mrs Monica Pethybridge: Lower Bradford Farm: 11c or 51s FIMAL	R: correct	No decision requisite
57 (29)	Mr Charles James Rush: Deacons Farm: Sc or 4p or 40s	R: correct	Confirm without any modification
59 (36)	Mrs Violet Rhoda Raymont: Carbaglet: 8c or 4p or 40s	R: correct	Confirm without any modification
60 (44)	Mr Michael Sidney Warvick Rich: Durfold: 12c and/or 6h or p and/or 60s	R: and/or is not correct. Produced paper signed by Mr Rich agreeing objection X1389	Confirm with modification that "and/or 6 horses or ponies and/or 60 sheep" substitute "ar 66 ponies or 60 sheep"



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62	Mr Neil Sidney Davidson:	R: rights for this	Confirmation refused
(2)	South Kerrow Farm: 40c or 120s: t or p: take tree loppings etc	farm do not extend over Unit Land	com magtion refused
63 (4)	Mr Wallace Morley Rowe and Mrs Margaret Mary Rowe: Higher Metherin; 15c or 7p or 75s	R: "my own" land; see next column for agreed confirmation	Confirm with modification for "15 head of cattle or 7 ponies or 75 sheep" substitute "11 head of cattle or 6 ponies or 55 sheep"
64 (16)	Mr Wallace Morley Rowe: Bradford: 5c or 2p or 25s FINAL	R: correct	No decision requisite
65 (17)	Mr Cyril Roger John Bate: Abbey Farm: 33c or 5p or 25s	R: should be reduced as in next column	Confirm with modification for "33 head of cattle or 5 ponies or 25 sheep" substitute "20 head of cattle or 5 ponies or 25 sheep"
65 (13)	Mr Cyril Roger John Bate: Hill Horse and Broad Park Farms: 33c or 33p or 165s	R: should be reduced as in next column	Confirm with modification for "33 head of cattle or 33 ponies or 165 sheep" substitute "20 head of cattle or 5 ponies or 25 sheep"
67 (13)	Mrs Rhoda Irene Rickard: Lease Farm: 4c or 2p or 20s: all Unit Land except an area tinted orange on map.	R: no rights ever exercised, Lease Farm is in a different parish; no cattle from there seen on Unit Land	Confirmation refused
éâ (22)	Mr Arthur Leslie Rowe: Lankon Farm: 15c or 7p or 75s: p or t FINAL	R: correct	No decision requisite



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69 (30)	Mr William Masters: OS Plots Nos on map: 4c FINAL	R: correct	No decision requisite
70 (34)	Mr Herbert Lisle Alexander: Popehouse: 3c or 1p or 15s FINAL	R: correct	No decision requisite
71 (35)	Mr Thomas Charles Masters: Higher Bradford: 25c FINAL	R: correct	No decision requisite —
72 (38)	Mr William Thomas George Ford: Bradford (part): 3c or 2p or 125s: p or t: take fish: take tree loppings etc FINAL	R: correct	No decision requisite
73 (39)	Mr William Thomas George Ford: Bradford (another part): 2c or 1p or 8s: p or t: take fish: take tree loppings etc FRIAL	R: correct	No decision requisite
74 (40)	Mr William John Carter: (North) Candra: 45c or 45p or 225s: t or p	R: land in Hamethethy, has no rights over Unit Land	Confirmation refused
75 (45)	Mr John Hawke Holman: Pendrift: 40c or 40p or 120s: t or p: take fish (de Lank River): take tree loppings etc	R: should be 15 units	Confirm with the modification for "40 head of cattle or 40 ponies or 120 sheep" substitute "15 head of cattle or 8 ponies or 75 sheep"
76 (47)	Trustees of Molesworth St Aubyn Settled Estate: not attached to any land: 200c and 211p and 500s: t or p: take gorse etc	R: I understood from Colonel Molesworth St Aubyn that he wished to withdraw all rights	Confirmation refused.

* Note us IN-74: - I have a letter delie 27 Novele 476 for GCI.
Chishelm Shihm 3 Bookmin Saying his Mr. Containment consistes equilibrille.



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77 (53)	Mr Alfred Robert Walkey and Mrs Florence Ann Walkey: Casehill: 60c and 12h and 300s: t or p	R: no rights: produced paper signed M J Kent on behalf of Mr and Mrs A R Walke requesting cancellation	Confirmation refused
80 (3)	Mr Albert Hubert Reginald Sleep: Hawkstor Cottage: 10c and 15s FINAL	R: correct	No decision requisite "
Dated this	16 French day of	March - 1	981

a.a. Baden Julie

Commons Commissioner